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DR. BEMAN ON WAR.

The recent visit of our President to Troy, N. Y., and his cordial reception by the Rev. Dr. Beman, reminds us of his address before the Associated Alumni of Middlebury College in 1825; and, on turning over its terse and brilliant pages once more, we found, among other passages of peculiar beauty and force, the following sentiments on the subject of peace, quite in advance of our own Society at that time, three years, indeed, before it was organized.

"These agents of reformation [learning and religion] must necessarily exterminate, in their progress, many of the practical evils which now exist, and some of which are tolerated only because they have the sanction of antiquity in their favor. I name three as a specimen of the whole family of plagues—despotism, slavery, and war. Neither of these can sustain itself, in human society, under the deep-rooted and well-established reign of intellectual and moral improvement. The world is beginning, though late, to open its eye upon their undisguised and naked character.

"The divine right of kings,' will do to bind up in the same bundle with 'the infallibility of the pope;' and when the work of combination is finished, this bundle, like the tares in the gospel, may be committed to the flames. It is a fact, which I need not spend time to establish, that the governments of our world have generally been of a despotic and oppressive character. But tyranny of every description, must fall before the united and homogeneous action of intelligence and Christian principle.

"As to slavery, it has its origin in theft and injustice—and in its existence and progress, in the social state, it is a triple curse; a curse to the master, to the slave, and to the unborn posterity of both. Like a falling body, its momentum of evil increases with every successive generation; and eventually resistance becomes hopeless. No country, where a numerous population is held in bondage, is likely to be, to any considerable extent, intellectual or virtuous. Nor can independence be long maintained. The bone and sinews of a free state—a vigorous yeomanry—will be entirely wanting. The wheel of destiny must experience a rotation—the physical power, from causes perfectly naked to human inspection, sooner or later will change hands—and the muscles which now feel, will, under the retributions of an equitable Providence, in their turn, inflict the blow. It always has been thus, in times past—and it always will be thus in time to come. Nothing can prevent the scenes of Egypt and of St. Domingo from being exhibited in other countries where slavery exists, but their anticipation by those remedies which are furnished by knowledge and religion.

"The character of war is not less incompatible with the genius of the gospel and an advanced stage of intellectual refinement, than that of despotism or slavery. It is a relict of barbarism which would long since have disappeared from human society, had the laws of nations, in their progress to ultimate perfection, kept pace with the

positive statutes which govern the political and social compact. But the spirit of war must expire. By two guardian angels—Christianity upon my right hand, and Science upon my left—methinks, I am conducted to an eminence, from which I survey the surrounding and subjected world. The freshness of Eden covers the scene, and the smile of Heaven gilds the prospect. The trumpet of carnage is blown no more—nor does the crimson flag ever again unfurl itself to the breeze. The demon of vengeance, ever hungry for human flesh, is unchained, and commissioned no more to imprint his bloody footsteps upon the earth—nor do the sighing zephyrs ever again utter the death-groans of murdered victims. The ensanguined field is no more covered with the mangled bodies of the slain—nor do the broad streams of blood ever again pursue their dark, and deep, and melancholy course, amidst the shouts of victory and the agonies of despair. The wife is no more hastened into widowhood, nor her babes consigned to orphanage. The bow of victory is broken—the spear of death is cut asunder—and the chariot of conquest is burned in the fire. This is a consummation devoutly to be sought; an enterprise which may command our most vigorous efforts while we live; and the successful termination of which will deserve to be perpetuated by a monument as high as heaven.”

A mind, like that of Dr. Beman, becomes of necessity a landmark of his age; and his views on the subject of peace, spontaneously uttered in the name of a large body of literary men even before the organization of our Society, must be regarded as a cheering index to the tendency and the progress of public opinion on this great theme. Such sentiments are fast coming to be entertained, if they are not already, by nearly all the first and best minds in our country; and, with these mainsprings of society at work in our favor, we may reasonably hope to leaven the entire mass of the next generation with such views as will make war and the warrior objects of popular contempt and abhorrence.

WAR DRIVING MISSIONARIES FROM THE FIELD.—The newspapers report the return of Dr. Parker and others from the missions in China, because the war there forbade the continuance of their labors. Even Gutzlaff has been driven from the field, and all missionary operations must of course be suspended during the progress, if not long after the close, of hostilities. Here are 350,000,000 minds excluded from all efforts for their salvation by the agency of war; and perhaps incurably prejudiced against the religion of the cross! England, the land of Bibles, the home of the missionary, the glory of all Christendom, draws the sword upon China, because she will not tamely submit to have her teeming millions drugged to death and perdition, just to gratify the avarice of men calling themselves Christians.